

Annah Mathato Nkabinde
103 years old and still
going strong!

WE SALUTE A GOLDEN OLDIE OF EVATON

Annah Mathato Nkabinde was born in the year when the township of Evaton was formed, more than a century ago. Just like Evaton, Gogo Nkabinde turned 103 years old this year and is the oldest resident in the area.

Born in 1905, the same year as famous South Africans such as Ellen Khuzwayo, Helen Joseph and Moses Kotane, Gogo Nkabinde came into this world at the exact same time that apartheid thinking was being enshrined. This was three years after the Anglo Boer War ended in 1902, when Evaton was still part of the old Transvaal Colony. Gogo Nkabinde has lived to see the creation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, the entrenchment of segregation and apartheid, the creation of homelands, the colour bar and the pass system. She has lived to see the beginning and the end of the vicious and cruel system of apartheid and she has seen freedom in her lifetime.

Despite her old age, Gogo Nkabinde still washes the dishes, makes a cup of tea and tidies up the yard. She believes strongly that you are what you eat and attributes her long life and health to growing up eating lots of planted vegetables, fruits and milk. "This was healthy food for us and it's the reason why I am still going strong at this age," she said.

Gogo Nkabinde is very excited to hear about the Evaton Renewal Project. "My people in Evaton have suffered and struggled for so long. It is very wonderful that we are finally rebuilding our area and giving people a better life," she said.

We salute Gogo Nkabinde, our Golden Oldie of Evaton! We wish her many more years of good health and happiness for years to come.

HOUSING:

"We have started building and upgrading houses in Evaton and by December there will be at least 300 houses on the ground," said Samantha Kaine, Project Manager of the Evaton Renewal Project. "We are moving on from putting in infrastructure and the key focus this year is tackling the housing problem in Evaton," she said.

Housing Land Release Project:

Evaton has large stands with an average size of about 3000 to 4000 square metres. The Land Release Project was identified as a means of acquiring land to build houses, because there is no other land available in Evaton. A Land Release Team has been put together to identify willing sellers and has been working hard on door-to-door visits to stand owners. Thus far, 30 willing sellers have come forward to release their stands for housing development. These land transfers and the payments to stand owners will take place during April and May 2008. Because many stand owners do not live in Evaton anymore, it has been difficult to get in contact with them through door-to-door visits. Newspaper and radio adverts are also being used to try to contact these stand owners.

The Emfuleni Local Municipality has also transferred 204 stands to the Gauteng Department of Housing, to be disposed of as part of the ERP housing programme. People with land claims are also receiving their land transfers currently from the Land Claims Commission. In the cases where the land cannot be restored to its rightful owner, e.g. if there is a school on the land, then the claimant will be compensated by the Land Claims Commission.



Bringing street lighting to Evaton

Housing Upgrades: 500 houses have been identified for housing upgrades. In most cases this means replacing informal and mud houses with formal brick houses. The objective of this project is to improve the quality of lives of the neediest people in Evaton. Phase 1 of the upgrades are being finalised and the contractor has been appointed and is on site and ready to begin the project.

Show Village: The housing plans for a Show Village have been completed and submitted to the council for approval. Thereafter a contractor will be appointed to begin the development of the Show Village.

Temporary Relocation Village: While the shacks and mud houses are being replaced or upgraded, people will need to have a place to live. The temporary relocation village will be built for this purpose. The house plans have been completed and submitted to the council for approval and the building contractor has been appointed.

Evaton Development Modelling: A model of Evaton is being developed to show what the entire Evaton Renewal Project development will look like. This will be completed in April 2008 and people will be able to view the model at the Evaton Renewal Project offices.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT:

Tshepo Themba Hall: The upgrade of the Tshepo Themba Hall is 100% completed and was ready in time for students to write their final year exams in December 2007.

Mafatsane Council Offices: The technical scope has been completed for the Mafatsane Government and Sport Complex and the building plans have been submitted for approval. Studies have revealed that the site was previously a dumping site. The building will therefore need "piling" or concrete pillars built into the ground to reinforce and stabilise the building foundations.

Environment: According to environmental laws, before any development takes place, in-depth environmental impact assessments need to be conducted and the community needs to be consulted. The ERP together with the Department of Environmental Affairs has held consultation meetings with the community of Evaton. The environmental impact studies of all the development projects are currently taking place.



Workers laying storm water draining pipes along the side of a road

ROADS & BULK INFRASTRUCTURE:

Much work has been done on the upgrading and resurfacing of roads, improving the storm water drainage and building pavements for pedestrians:

- Eagle Street is 98% completed.
- Adams Road is 97% completed. The contractor for the installation of street lighting has been appointed and is about to begin. Additional paving has started.
- Selbourne road is 97% completed. Some of the resurfacing work is being redone due to work delays and damage caused by heavy rains.
- Evaton Road is 96% completed.
- Grading of gravel roads: The contractor has been appointed and is on-site commencing with the work.



Construction workers hard at work on upgrading the roads and building pedestrian pavements



The successful ERP Communications Interns (from left): Catherine Ditsietsi Mosae, Pollar Mamsy Msiza and Selinah Maleshoane Qai.

EVATON AMBASSADOR – PROTECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS

She's a strong leader, she's internationally well-known, she promotes and protects Human Rights...and she was born and bred in Evaton! To commemorate Human Rights Day, celebrated annually on 21 March, Evaton News invited Advocate Pansy Tlakula to write a message for Evaton News. Adv. Tlakula is a writer and is the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and an Ambassador of the Evaton Renewal Project and South Africa. In her daily work at the IEC Adv. Tlakula ensures that people in many countries are able to exercise their most basic and fundamental Human Right – the right to vote!

"Evaton occupies a very special place in the hearts of people who were born and raised there. Amidst poverty, squalor, lack of electricity, sanitation and clean running water during my childhood, Evaton has still managed to produce people who occupy leadership and other important positions in our country and abroad. These people include, Advocate Ishmael Semanya SC, Mr Victor Nosi, Dr Victor Ramathesele, Ambassador Dumisani Khumalo, our Ambassador at the United Nation's Security Council in New York... the list is endless.

Historically Evaton is unique. For a long time, it was one of the few places where African people were allowed to have full title to land ownership during apartheid. It has also contributed to the liberation of our country through a number of protests and other initiatives.

Over a long period we have witnessed the progressive decay of our beloved Evaton. Only those who have a close relationship with Evaton will understand what I mean. We are however very much encouraged by the Evaton Renewal Project. This project excites most of us. We have the responsibility to ensure that we support the project. For it to succeed, it has to be driven by the people of Evaton. Through this project, we hope Evaton will be restored to its glorious days. We must do this for the sake of our children and grandchildren. We owe it to them."



Advocate Pansy Tlakula, daughter of Evaton and a fierce protector of Human Rights!

INTERNS COMMITTED TO ERP COMMUNICATIONS

Three communications interns have been appointed in the Evaton Renewal Project, in January 2008. They will work within the communications agency for the Evaton Renewal Project, Gabriel & Associates, for a year, as part of the ERP commitment towards local development and skills transfer.

"The objectives of the internship programme are to transfer skills and build capacity within the community of Evaton, especially in media and communications. This will ensure that the skills and capacity built remain in Evaton, for the benefit of the community, long after the project is over," said Samantha Kaine, the ERP Project Manager of the Gauteng Department of Housing.

"The successful candidates were Catherine Ditsietsi Mosae, Pollar Mamsy Msiza and Selinah Maleshoane Qai. The Interns are currently undergoing a broad range of training from information gathering, to writing and editing, to photography and website maintenance," said Leejendra Raj, Gabriel & Associates' Internship Manager. "They are already making a valuable contribution towards Evaton News and the Evaton Renewal Project website," he said.



POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

WHAT IS LOAD SHEDDING?

Evaton, like the rest of the country, has been experiencing many power cuts recently. These power cuts are called blackouts or load shedding. When there is not enough electricity available to meet the demand from all Eskom's customers, it becomes necessary for Eskom to interrupt electricity supply to certain areas at different times. This is called load shedding.

HOW CAN WE HELP TO AVOID BLACKOUTS?

We can help to save electricity by using fewer and less lights, using energy-saving light bulbs, switching off geysers when not needed, using our stove less for cooking and by using other energy sources like solar power and gas.

WHEN WILL LOAD SHEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE?

Customers who receive their electricity directly from Eskom will be able to get information about possible outages from Eskom directly. Those who are supplied by their local municipalities will be able to get load shedding information from their municipal electricity department. For more information call the Eskom call share number on 0860 037 566.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Meet Brenda Ndlovu, the Office Administrator of the Evaton Development Forum (EDF):

"Being appointed by the EDF was a dream come true. I feel honoured to have been given this opportunity to work with the EDF and to take part in developing this community. My daily duties are to deal with the EDF's paperwork, fax documents, handle phone calls and also liaise with ward Councillors. I also inform people that visit the offices about the Evaton Renewal Project. I do enjoy my job! In this kind of work you need to have a sharp mind, remember things and always multi task," said Ndlovu.

"I was born and still live in Sterling Road, Evaton, with my family. I have a very supportive family. Women have a very important role to play in any community. We are the mothers and teachers, nurses and doctors. We can also be leaders too. It is very important for women to get involved in the Evaton Renewal Project so that our voices can be heard," she added.

Contact the Evaton Development Forum Office on (016) 596 7103/596 7184/596 7086



Brenda Ndlovu
Office Administrator of the
Evaton Development Forum (EDF)

EVATONIAN WINS COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE YEAR

Maria Manoto (65) from Evaton has once again achieved national recognition for a lifetime of commitment to helping her community, by winning the Senior Category of the prestigious Community Builder of the Year Award, for her work in the Emthonjeni Multi Purpose Centre in Evaton.

The Community Builder of the Year Award is a nation-building project conceived in 1991 by the late Dr Aggrey Klaaste, a veteran journalist and former Sowetan editor. Its purpose is to recognise men and women who unselfishly give their time and talent to improve the quality of life for others in their communities.

"I started the Emthonjeni Multi Purpose Centre as a non-profit organisation in 2002. The aim of the centre is to address community needs such as unemployment, poverty and counseling. Working as a social worker for 18 years showed me that there is a need for such organisations in our community," said Manoto. "Emthonjeni teaches people how to generate income for themselves. We do not offer any employment to community people but we engage them in projects like, candle-making, food-gardening, child day care and bakery," she explained.

"Currently there are about seventy volunteers working in the organisation. About twenty people are currently working in the gardening project, while six people work in the candle-making project and others are involved in the baking project. These volunteers sell food harvested from the garden to the community and to the Emthonjeni Centre. We also feed two hundred and fifty children daily and help them with their homework," she added.

To support the wonderful work of Maria Manoto and the Emthonjeni Multi Purpose Centre, contact: (016) 591 8990 / 072 263 8683 / eacentre@workmail.co.za



Maria Manoto, Winner of the
prestigious Community Builder of
the Year Award!



HEYTA!

Boisanie (Boyzi) Khumalo promoted to Chief Community Liaison Officer: "As Chief CLO my role is to ensure that the CLOs are informing members of the community about the activities of Evaton Renewal Project."



DUMELA!

Kebohileng Montisi appointed as Deputy Chief Community Liaison Officer: "My duties involve liaising with ward Councillors and informing the community about the ERP projects. I am very happy to be Deputy Chief CLO and will ensure that the community is always informed."



HOEZIT!

Takalani Mutobvu appointed as ERP Communications Manager, Gauteng Department of Housing "As Communications Manager, my responsibilities are to develop communications strategies for Gauteng Department of Housing and to take forward media and communications in the Evaton community. I am very positive about the Evaton Renewal Project and hope we get good community support."



SHARP!

Tshidi Letwaba appointed as ERP Office Manager, Gauteng Department of Housing "I will be managing the ERP office of the Gauteng Department of Housing. Being involved in the ERP is a great experience for me. I'm very happy to be in such a project where we interact directly with the community."



DUMELA!

Catherine Ditsietsi Mosae appointed as an ERP Communications Intern "I am so excited about this opportunity to learn about communications. I am very committed to playing a role in the Evaton Renewal Project, for the good of Evaton."



MOLO!

Pollar Mamsy Msiza appointed as an ERP Communications Intern "There are so many good developments happening in the Evaton Renewal Project, and I am so proud to have been chosen to help communicate this information to the people of Evaton."



YEBO YES!

Selinah Maleshoane Qai appointed as an ERP Communications Intern "The ERP is very interesting and I am learning so much about communications already. I am so grateful for this opportunity to learn and to grow my career in media and communications."